

PRINCESS TAM-TAM



Released in France in 1935 and later in the United States, the French-produced Princess Tam-Tam was one of only four movies to feature an acting performance by American-born entertainer Josephine Baker.

Filmed in France and Tunisia, Princess Tam-Tam tells the story of a famous novelist, played by French actor Albert Prejean, who travels to Africa after an argument with his socialite wife. While attempting to overcome writer's block, he is charmed by a simple African woman, played by Baker. He subsequently presents her as a princess to Parisian society in an attempt to arouse the jealousy of his wife, while also

hoping to use the resulting story as the plot for his next book.

A renowned entertainer, Josephine Baker (1906-1975) was born in St. Louis, MO. After touring the United States with traveling road shows, she soon became known for a style of dancing marked by a comic touch. When she performed in Paris during the 1920s, her career thrived, and she was soon one of the most popular performers in Europe. She became a French citizen in 1937.

Princess Tam-Tam featured Baker's exuberant dancing and her performances of two songs. Although the French-language film was little known in the U.S. at the time, it is now considered a rare film-length showcase for Baker's talents.

The poster for Princess Tam-Tam was used to promote the release of the movie in Denmark. It features an illustration of a glamorous Josephine Baker casting a large shadow behind her. Baker's name appears prominently at the top of the poster, while red, white, and blue stripes run at angles down the left and right margins. At the bottom of the poster, the title of the film is given as "Prinsesse Tam-Tam." The title is in Danish, as is all cast and credit information that follows it.

